Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method in a multi-partitioned <u>computer</u> ~~data processing system~~ for managing operating systems, the method comprising:

receiving<u>, by the multi-partitioned computer that is concurrently executing a plurality of different</u> <u>operating systems,</u> a request from <u>a particular</u> [[an]] operating system <u>during the loading of the particular</u> <u>operating system</u> in the multi-partitioned <u>computer</u> ~~data processing system~~ to register <u>the particular</u> <u>operating system</u> for access to hardware in the multi-partitioned <u>computer</u> ~~data processing system~~, wherein the request includes a key code for the <u>particular operating system</u> ~~operating system~~;

responsive to receiving the request, determining whether the <u>particular</u> operating system is an authorized operating system using the key code; and

registering the <u>particular</u> operating system if the <u>particular</u> operating system is <u>an</u> [[the]] authorized operating system.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

terminating the <u>particular</u> operating system if the <u>particular</u> operating system is an unauthorized operating system.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes:

comparing the key code to a set of key codes for authorized operating systems; and

determining whether a match is present between the key code and any key code in the set of key codes.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the set of key codes is located in a partition profile.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the set of key codes are defined through a hardware management console.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the partition profile is stored in a nonvolatile memory.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the key code for the <u>particular</u> operating system is embedded within the <u>particular</u> operating system and is a unique key code.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step, the determining step, and the registering step are performed in platform firmware.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to receiving a call to access the hardware, determining whether the <u>particular</u> operating system is registered;

responsive to receiving the call to access the hardware, determining whether the call is necessary to setup the <u>particular</u> operating system; and

terminating the <u>particular</u> operating system if the <u>particular</u> operating system is not registered and if the call if unnecessary to setup the <u>particular</u> operating system.

10-28. (Canceled)

29.   (New) A method in a multi-partitioned computer for managing operating systems, the method comprising:

receiving a request from an operating system during the loading of the operating system in the multi-partitioned computer to register for access to hardware in the multi-partitioned computer, wherein the request includes a key code for the operating system;

responsive to receiving the request, using the key code to determine whether the operating system is an authorized operating system; and

registering the operating system if the operating system is an authorized operating system, wherein the operating system can access the hardware only if the operating system is registered.

30.   (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

terminating the operating system if the operating system is an unauthorized operating system.

31.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the determining step includes:

comparing the key code to a set of key codes for authorized operating systems; and

determining whether a match is present between the key code and any key code in the set of key codes.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the set of key codes is located in a partition profile in the computer.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the partition profile is stored in a nonvolatile memory.

34.   (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the set of key codes are defined through a hardware management console.

35.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the key code for the operating system is embedded within the operating system and is a unique key code.

36.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the receiving step, the determining step, and the registering step are performed in platform firmware in the computer.

37.   (New) A method in a multi-partitioned computer for managing operating systems, the method comprising:
        receiving a request from an operating system during the loading of the operating system in the multi-partitioned computer to register for access to hardware in the multi-partitioned computer;
        determining whether the operating system includes a key code;
        responsive to determining that the operating system does not include a key code, terminating the operating system;
        responsive to determining that the operating system includes a key code, using the key code to determine whether the operating system is an authorized operating system; and
        registering the operating system if the operating system is an authorized operating system, wherein the operating system can access the hardware only if the operating system is registered.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37 further comprising:
        terminating the operating system if the operating system is an unauthorized operating system.

39.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the determining step includes:
        comparing the key code to a set of key codes for authorized operating systems; and
        determining whether a match is present between the key code and any key code in the set of key codes.

40.   (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the set of key codes is located in a partition profile.

41.   (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the partition profile is stored in a nonvolatile memory.

42.   (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the set of key codes are defined through a hardware management console.

43.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the key code for the operating system is embedded within the operating system and is a unique key code.

44.   (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the receiving step, the determining step, and the registering step are performed in platform firmware.